

Appln. No. 10/071,963
Amendment dated July 13, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The April 21, 2005 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112

In the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, claims 14-16 are amended in a sincere effort to address each of the issues raised by the Examiner regarding the indefiniteness rejection.

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In view of the amendment of claims 14-16, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14-16 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over EP 0 875 374 A2 (Shimizu et al.) in view of USP 5,656,359 (Hirota et al.). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of Hirota et al.

In response, claims 1-6, 11-13 and 17 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection under 35 USC 103 moot.

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Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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